



United Firefighters of Los Angeles City

Membership and Benefits

Local 112, International Association of Fire Fighters

March 13, 2012

Statement from United Firefighters of Los Angeles City (UFLAC) President, Pat McOsker regarding recently revealed inaccuracies in Fire Department response time statistics:

For over three years now, United Firefighters of Los Angeles City (UFLAC) has been engaged in a very public and non-stop battle with both the City's and the Fire Department's administrative and political establishment over the very basic question of adequate public and firefighter safety. Beginning with the dangerous "rolling brown-outs" of 2009 and extending through that failed program and on to the present – and equally dangerous – fire company and rescue ambulance closures, we have spoken both clearly and honestly in our advocacy for the people of our City. It hasn't been easy. Often, we have been characterized by public officials and elements in the press as either alarmist or, sadly, as self-serving. The mayor of this City even once attempted to attach shame to our efforts and publicly called for the removal of our leadership.

It turns out that we have been right all along. Even while being hampered by the false statistics knowingly used by Fire Department management and the Mayor's office in justifying the "brown-outs" and closures, Firefighters and their representatives have intuitively understood and have publicly stated that the public was being put in peril. Now, the tardily "corrected" response time statistics only serve to strengthen both our point and our resolve. The plain fact is that UFLAC has been more diligent and far more honest in this matter than has been either the Fire Department's management or the vast majority of Los Angeles' elected public representatives.

We are now at a point where there can be no further debate. The people of this City have been unnecessarily and dishonestly put in danger. That added danger continues hour by hour until those selected and elected to lead take action to end it. Fire Department management, the Mayor, and the City Council must act quickly and co-operatively to protect the public. Full fire and emergency medical staffing must be restored immediately. UFLAC, as always, stands ready to assist.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Pat McOsker", is positioned above a horizontal line.

Pat McOsker
President